

A REVIEW OF RECORDS OF THE TRUMPETER SWAN
IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

BY WALTER P. TAYLOR

The Trumpeter Swan, while never, apparently, so common in Washington as the Whistling species, doubtless occurred in some numbers in favorable localities in earlier days. While several records from the literature are not with certainty referable to the Trumpeter, they may be listed as pointing to the probable former occurrence of the species in abundance. Lewis and Clark (Allen ed., II, 1814, p. 212) report swans, probably Trumpeters, abundant March 29, 1806, on the Columbia River opposite what is now Clarke County. Newberry (Pac. Railroad Rep., VI, 1857, p. 100) says the Trumpeter Swan is always rare compared with the myriads of other water birds which congregate in the bays and rivers of the west in their annual migrations, but particularizes as follows: "Before we left the Columbia, early in November, the swans had begun to arrive from the north, and frequently, while at Fort Vancouver, their trumpeting call drew our attention to the long converging lines of these magnificent birds, so large and so snowy white, as they came from their northern nesting places, and, screaming their delight at the appearance of the broad expanse of water, perhaps their winter home, descended into the Columbia." Suckley (Pac. Railroad Rep., XII, 1860, pp. 248-249) asserts that the Trumpeter Swan was more abundant on the Columbia River than on Puget Sound, and tells of seeing immense flocks of swans, apparently of this species, along the shores of the river, spread out along the margin of the water for a distance varying from an eighth to a quarter of a mile. Mortimer Kerry (Forest and Stream, 1874, pp. 129-130) records shooting a Trumpeter Swan on Swan Island in the Columbia River, but gives no date. Johnson (Rep. Gov. Wash. Terr., 1885, p. 596) assigns the species to both eastern and western Washington. According to Anthony (Auk, III, 1886, pp. 162-163) the Trumpeter Swan was found in large numbers on the Columbia River in winter. Rhoads (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1893, p. 35) thought he saw six of the species at Nisqually between March 29 and April 22, 1892, but no specimens were secured. In fact, none of the records cited to this point is attested, so far as I can learn, by specimens preserved. There are, however, at least four examples which have actually been taken in or very near to Wash-

ington. Salvadori (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., XXVII, 1895, p. 35) records a specimen in the British Museum, said to have been collected on the Snake River, Washington, in September. Coale (Auk, XXXII, 1915, p. 87) reports a mounted specimen in the collection of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, shot on the Columbia River, three miles west of Portland, Oregon, April 8, 1881. D. E. Brown of Seattle kindly sends me the data on another Trumpeter Swan, which was shot by a hunter during the winter of 1906 at Nisqually, at the south end of Puget Sound, Washington. The specimen was taken to a taxidermy shop to be mounted, but was never called for, and was later given to Brown, in whose collection it now is. The measurements of this example are as follows: eye to back of nostril, 72 mm.; eye to tip of bill, 146; wing, 647. On or about November 9, 1912, a Trumpeter Swan was shot at Moses Lake (Bowles, Condor, XVIII, 1916, p. 171); the specimen was mounted by Fred Edwards of Tacoma, and is now in the collection of George Willett. This example was in immature plumage. In conclusion it may be noted that in spite of the former occurrence of the Trumpeter Swan in Washington, in all probability in some abundance, there has been no recorded instance of its appearance in the State for more than ten years.

NOTES ON THE BIRD LIFE OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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(Continued from the June Issue)

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER—*Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*.

A fairly common migrant, feeding in underbrush and seldom seen far from the ground. In the spring migration the birds are a little scarce and seemingly pass through in one or two days, for in 1912 they were seen on the 30th of April and on the 1st of May, in 1913 on the 13th and 14th of May, and in 1914 on the 28th of April only. In the fall they are oftener seen and more regular in their appearance, my dates for their arrival being September 14, 1912, September 20, 1913, September 10, 1914, and September 9, 1916. October 5, 1913, is my latest date for their occurrence during the fall migration.

MYRTLE WARBLER—*Dendroica coronata*.

A common migrant, occurring in small flocks and not mingling as a general rule with other members of this family. My dates for arrival in the spring are April 22, 1913, and April 18, 1914. May 11, 1914, is my latest record for the spring migration. In the fall the first birds appeared September 28, 1913, and September 8, 1914, and in 1913 were last seen